

Serial No.: 09/989,845

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leg of the U-shaped channel extending inwardly within the U-shaped channel. A plurality of vertically extending posts have an elongated body and at least two flange segments. Each flange segment has at least one perforation for facilitating fastening to the T-shaped or U-shaped channel.

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(Amended)

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the Claims as follows.

1. (Amended) In a barrier comprised of at least one longitudinally extending railing supportably fastened to vertically extending posts, the improvement in such barrier which comprises:

at least one longitudinally extending railing having at least one generally T-shaped channel extending in the longitudinal direction of said railing;

vertically extending posts having an elongated body and having at least two flange segments extending outwardly in opposite direction and having at least one perforation in each flange segment; and

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fastening means slidably embraced within said T-shaped channel and extending through the perforation in said flange segment and thereby fastened to said vertical post.

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2. (Amended) The barrier of Claim 1 wherein the T-shaped channel has an inwardly extending tab at the end of each leg of said T-shaped channel.

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(independent)

3. (Amended) The barrier of Claim 2 wherein the railing has at least two T-shaped channels.

7. (Amended) The barrier of Claim 4 wherein the railing and vertical posts are formed from aluminum by an extrusion process.

8. (Amended) A method for providing a barrier having at least one longitudinally extending railing supportably fastened to vertically extending posts, comprising:

providing at least one longitudinally extending railing having at least one generally T-shaped channel extending in the longitudinal direction of said railing;

providing vertically extending posts having an elongated body and having at least two flange segments extending outwardly in opposite direction and having at least one perforation in each flange segment; and

slidably fastening to said vertical post said T-shaped channel and through a perforation in said flange segment.

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9. (Amended) The method of Claim 8 wherein the T-shaped channel has an inwardly extending tab at the end of each leg of said T-shaped channel.

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(waid) 10. (Amended) The method of Claim 9 wherein the railing has at least two T-shaped channels.

14. (Amended) The method of Claim 10 wherein the railing and vertical posts are formed from aluminum by an extrusion process.

Br 15. (Amended) The method of Claim 11 wherein the railing and vertical posts are formed from aluminum by an extrusion process.

16. (Amended) The method of Claim 12 wherein the railing and vertical posts are formed from aluminum by an extrusion process.

18. (Amended) Apparatus, comprising:

a barrier having at least one longitudinally extending railing supportably fastened to vertically extending posts;

at least one longitudinally extending railing having at least one generally T-shaped channel extending in the longitudinal direction of said railing;

Be the vertically extending posts having an elongated body and having at least two flange segments extending outwardly in